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THE UNITARIAN

A MAGAZINE FOR FREE CHRISTIANS

NOT TO BE TAKEN FROM BUILDING

'RESIDENT OF THE U.Y.P.L. FOR 1960

On May 14th of this year, Florence Stark celebrated her twenty-third birthday. That day was also the eve of her entering the Presidency of the Unitarian Young Peoples League.

Born in Glasgow in 1937, Florence has always been a member of the Glasgow Unitarian Church where her parents have been members for over forty years. Florence holds a position of considerable responsibility as an occupational therapist in a psychiatric hospital. In her spare time she likes reading—"anything from Chaucer to Cheyney," knitting and sewing. In good weather she prefers to spend a bit of time gardening and she also appreciates a long walk. Florence has two cats, one budgie and a brother. One cat lives where she works, one with and the budgie live at home, and the brother lives at Portsmouth where he is a doctor.

Florence first joined the U.Y.P.L. in September 1956. In 1957 she became Scotland's representative on the National Committee. This year, as National President, she has the unenviable task of being chairman to that committee comprising nine men and only one other girl. She feels that her work is to emphasise the unity of the U.Y.P.L. on branch, regional and national levels. She says, "Unity is strength," and she wants to bring it home to the League that it is a national body, and not "a Lancashire League with fringes." She also wants to air her special interest by putting in an occasional plea for the recognition of World Mental Health Year.

EDITOR'S CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Will contributors, senders of Calendars and readers please note that from the last week of September the Editor's address will be:

The Parsonage,
Sylvan Grove,
Altrincham,
Cheshire.

Please send all calendars for October onwards to this address.

THE NEW BUSH

A HORTICULTURAL PARABLE

By Francis Terry

The Unitarian blossoms were well satisfied with their place as a branch on the great flowering shrub, Christianity. They were pleased to be part of such a large and conspicuous bush. They were proud of their own position, high up at the outmost point of its growth, and proving its power to spread and expand with the passing years. They were glad that, by reaching out be-

yond the more crowded parts of the bush, they had got so much sun and air, and had been able to flower in such profusion.

Then came the wintry weather of 1914-18; and when the Gardener paid a visit to inspect the damage, he saw that the shrub, Christianity, was showing signs of age. It had spread too widely and outgrown its strength, and could no longer resist the weather. It still had life in it, however, and could survive and flower for a few more seasons yet, but only if it was severely cut back to near its root. The Gardener therefore sent in workmen, Barth and others, who lopped off the sprawling branches, and reduced the bush to a very much smaller size.

Before sending in the workmen, however, the Gardener had noticed the life and promise of the Unitarian branch. He therefore pulled it down to the ground, and pinned it there, among the undergrowth, where it was too low for the shears and hooks of the workmen to do it much harm. There it remained, almost unnoticed, and in a doubtful and ambiguous condition. Was it still part of the original bush, or was it not? At first it continued to draw life from the longstem which trailed over the ground to the central root of Christianity. But soon its lowly and exposed situation compelled it to strike down roots of its own into the soil on which it la and gradually these became i main source of nourishment. H wars and cold wars and oth changes of weather wore away th connecting stem, till at last the were two quite separate bushe Christianity, though much shrun from its former expansiveness, r mained a conspicuous feature of th garden; it still bore many flower though a close observer could se that it was past its prime. Almo a stone's throw away, apparently independent growth, were the sma beginnings of a new shrub, not hig enough to attract attention, an scarcely beginning to bear flower The old blossoming time was ove the period of fresh growth an blossom was yet to come.

HOLES IN THE DARKNESS

A striking story is told of Robert Louis Stevenson. Once, as a boy, he watched a lamplighter going from light to light in the street. "Look," he said to his nurse, "There's a man out there punching holes in the darkness." What the world needs is more people punching holes in the darkness.

The Calendar,
Unity Church,
Bolton.

EBB AND FLOW

Bruce Findlo

The year is running down, th days are drawing in, Summer ha given way to Autumn; yellow, brow falling Autumn with its hints Winter's following. A late holiday fo some, an Indian summer, warmth and light for us all perhaps but slowly and surely the year running down through mello Autumn into austere Winter.

We cannot stop it, any more tha we can halt the running of ou own span of days. We can preten if we wish, that Summer lasts fo ever; but we will look silly in Sum mer clothes when all the rest are i tweeds and woollies, and in the en a chill or a wetting will force us t recognise that Summer has gon We can, if we wish, behave like 2 at 50 or like 35 at 70 and kid ou selves we are "as young as ever" an will never grow old; but we wi look a bit silly and one day, harshl we will learn to "be our age."

Some sweet sadness comes in evitably with Autumn and wit growing old. But in the souther half of the world the year waking up; Spring is coming i

eptember down there. And for very 65th or 75th birthday this ear, somewhere there is a 5th and 15th birthday also. The year rises r some while it wanes for others; fe flows for some while it ebbs for hers; this is the way of things for an and his world. Wisdom and appiness lie in accepting this hich we cannot halt or change. If has been a bad summer, well, let's cept it and look for a good utumn, in ourselves and in the orld.

"For seasons of bounty and of auty, for nights of quiet sleep, for ys of health, for the glory of the rth and its ministry to our need; e bless thy name, O Lord."

HILDREN'S CORNER

SCOUTING FOR RAYMOND

Hello, everyone! This is Raymond. ell, after last month, here we go! Some weeks ago I went to camp th the Scouts. D'you know I'm in e Scouts? I don't think you do, do u? Well, I've only been in a few nths; but I came up from the bs, you see.

We went down into Shropshire by ain, trek-cart and all, got off at small country station, and walked d pushed the cart three or four les to a camp site beside a river.

We have three patrols, by the way: ckoos, Swifts and Otters. I'm in e Swifts. Dad says that's appro- iate—nobody moves swifter than do when a job looms up.

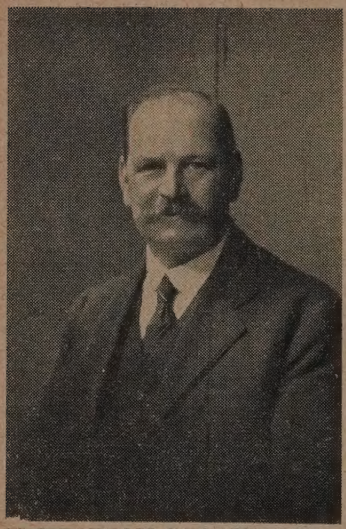
We set up camp and settled in; d got through a lot during the ek; cooking, tracking, tactical mes and so on. I don't think we d too badly. We had a bit of uble with the cooking; some of us t chased by a bull; we didn't see e to eye with a crowd of wasps; d one tent fell down through our ckness. Anyway we learnt a lot. e main thing was a bit of bridge ilding over the river, which wasn't very wide at this point. We got a good, solid log, quite long enough; then we cut and lashed together strong supports just out from both banks. The log was placed across and lashed down and a rope hand rail fastened on both sides. But we just missed a serious accident, because the lashing on one of the supports was poor and became very slack. The log slipped quite a bit whilst two or three lads were crossing, and they finished up in the water. Luckily, they came out with only a few scratches besides a soaking. But Mr. Brown, the G.S.M. pointed out how serious it might have been; and we had plenty of lashing practice after that.

But, it was a smashing camp! I'm looking forward to the next one!

A FEATHER BED FOR FALLING CHRISTIANS?

An atheistic critic once described Unitarianism as "A feather bed for falling Christians." Such a convenience is not I'm afraid in much demand these days when there are fewer and fewer Christians to seduce. We have heard the story of the imaginary conversation outside the Parish Church where the victim agrees with something like 99 per cent. of the services but boggles at the remaining one per cent. and is therefore led away to the historic Unitarian Meeting House round the corner by his wily Unitarian friend. However, since we are told that only about 5 per cent. of the population go to any church at all, this would not seem to be a very hopeful line of advance. Unitarianism is no feather bed these days. It would be much better if we concentrated our attention on the rising Pagan who is prepared to think beyond the shoddy mass-produced world which surrounds him, and to get to grips with the real things of life.

(*From "The Suffolk Unitarian"*).



UNITARIAN STALWARTS

ALD. FRANK BEER, C.C., J.P.

Alderman Frank Beer, C.C., J.P., Chairman of the Committee of Conigre Unitarian Church, Trowbridge, celebrated his 90th birthday on May 18th. Mr. Beer celebrated his birthday by travelling from Trowbridge to Llandudno to attend the Conference of Friendly Societies. During 60 years work with such societies (for many of these years in office) he has never missed a conference.

Mr. Beer is a remarkable example of healthy and active longevity. His membership of Conigre Unitarian Church dates back 65 years, during 60 of which he has held office. Mr. Beer's first official position was that of Church Treasurer, he was then Secretary and for a number of years now he has been Chairman. The Church is of General Baptist origin, and Mr. Beer has for many years played an active part in the affairs of the General Baptist Assembly. He has been Treasurer o the Assembly for over 40 years, an never misses an annual meeting i London.

Mr. Beer remembers the las occasion when a Unitarian ministe was baptised by immersion in th Trowbridge Church. This was i 1895 when the Rev. R. H. V. Bloo was baptised the day after Mr. Bee married the lady who had been in strumental in bringing him t Conigre Unitarian Church.

He has taken a constant interes in local government. For a quarte of a century he served on the Trow bridge Urban District Council, re tiring from his membership 20 year ago. He is "father" of the Wiltshir County Council, to which he wa first elected in 1919. He is a membe among other committees, of th Finance and Education Committee and he serves on no less than eigh sub-committees of the Educatio Committee. He is on the Board o Management of practically a schools in Trowbridge.

For 40 years he acted as Secr tary of the Pioneer Sick Benef and Provident Society, playing leading part in the very considerabl extension of the Society which too place during that time; since his re tirement in 1935 he has been member of the Management Com mittee. Truly an amazing record o devotion and constancy in publi service, and with this devotion an constancy Ald. Beer combines a unobtrusiveness, a quiet goo humour, and a spirit of unvaryin goodwill and friendliness which en dear him to all who have had th privilege of working with him.

UNITARIANS IN THE NEWS

The Rt. Hon. J. Chuter Ed Labour M.P. for South Shields and former Home Secretary and Pres dent of the General Assembl announced on July 19th. that he wi retire at the next election. Mr. Ed is 78.

THE JERUSALEM BAZAAR

A Translation from the Welsh "Yr Ymofynydd," March, 1959, and first printed in "The Leek," 1921

SIR,—Allow me to draw attention to a Bazaar to be held in the City Hall, Jerusalem, on April 4th and 5th next. The Church in Jerusalem has fallen into dire poverty, and the wealthy members believe that the best remedy is to imitate the fashion of this world. It is better, in a difficulty, always to follow the wise, and the children of this world are wiser in their generation than the children of the light. It is excellent news that the Apostle Paul is encouraging the project. At one time he advocated the old-fashioned method of self-sacrifice, which by now has been proved a failure. All the proceeds go to the cause in Jerusalem.

A strong committee met in the Upper Chamber with our revered minister, James, in the chair. On the proposition of Paul with the support of Peter it was decided to hold a Bazaar. John was appointed Secretary, and one of the Money-changers, once thrown out of the temple through a misunderstanding, Treasurer. The women are enthusiastic and everybody is showing great interest. It will be seen from the following programme how thoroughly the work is being done.

Patrons: His Excellency Herod the Tetrarch; the Rt. Hon. Pontius Pilate, Governor; the Rt. Rev. Mr. Caiaphas, High Priest; the Rt. Rev. Mr. Annas; Joseph of Arimathea, Esq., J.P.; the Rev. Rabbi Nicodemus, O.B.E.

The Bazaar will be opened by her Excellency Herodias, the Tetrarchess, after prayer by the Rev. Mr. James. The former antagonism of our most gracious Tetrarch to our minister, on account of his rather narrow and old-fashioned ideas on safe-guarding the church's well-being, has been resolved through the minister's consent to holding a bazaar and other events to which prominent personalities can be invited.

Stall arrangements: Home produce and confectionary — the Misses Martha and Mary. Fruit stall—Mr. Nathaniel, who is given to contemplation under fig trees. The white elephant stall—Mrs. Dorcas, will exhibit Peter's sea-boots for walking on water; Zacchaeus's trousers, torn on a sycamore tree; the woman of Samaria's first husband's hat; husks expectorated by a hungry and unsuccessful beggar; locusts bequeathed by the late John Baptist; and many other exhibits.

Side-shows: The Talking Donkey (loaned by Mr. Balaam); the Life-saving Whale (lent by Mr. Jonah); three minutes inside for one shekel.

A Raffle is being arranged by the Prodigal Son with good prizes: (1) a lost sheep, (2) a cock that crows three times. Lucky dip in charge of Mr. Thomas Didymus.

A prize consisting of the umbrella left by Paul at the Council of Jerusalem is offered for the best line to complete the following limerick:

When Noah had finished the ark,
All the people were drenched in the dark,
If a flood came to-day
In a similar way . . .

For further details write to the Secretary, Upper Chambers, Jerusalem.

HERE LET NO ONE BE LONELY . . .

"To-night in St. Mark's Unitarian Church, Edinburgh, a service is being held for strangers! Before worship begins, the minister, the Rev. Bruce Findow, will welcome any strangers who are present and explain that the service is really for them. In every hymn book will be a little

card offering friendship to visitors. If they wish they can write their name and address on the card and leave it behind for the minister who will pay them a visit. Thus a lonely soul can find friendship and company when they are needed most.

The services, which are held every month, are Mr. Findlow's own idea; all because he once was lonely too. Eleven years ago when he was a young soldier he returned home to Melbourne; as he settled down in civilian life, he looked for a church to join but he had been away so long he felt like a stranger. He was a shy young man but in one church in particular he was given a welcome he has never forgotten. So much so that he decided to become a minister of that church, and that is why he is in Edinburgh now. Isn't it wonderful how a warm handshake in a Melbourne church—thousands of miles away and many years ago—is still being offered in Scotland to-day."

From a Scottish newspaper—sent to the Editor via Wales.

Northern S.S. Federation

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NEWS AND VIEWS

OVERSEAS CHURCHES

The minister of the Church at ADELAIDE has the right of Private Entree at the Levee held at Government House each year. This is a special honour extended only to a few representative persons. The Church Calendar reports: "This recognition is an indication of the historic place the Church has occupied in the city's life and is of much value."

The Rev. A. P. Hewett, VANCOUVER, suggested recently that he might repeat the course on comparative religion that he conducted two years ago if enough people were interested. Fifty-five people wrote back saying they planned to enrol. The course is therefore "on" and will run for twenty-four weeks beginning in September.

From the newsletter of the Lakeshore, MONTREAL Church: "The Open Door Society. A couple of issues ago we printed an editorial by Mrs. Cynthia Cowan, the adopted mother of two children of mixed race, who wanted to start an organisation of adopted and foster parents of mixed race children. Then in rapid succession their story was told by a columnist in the 'Gazette,' in a feature article in the 'Montreal Star,' and on the network TV programme 'Tabloid.' Her editorial was reprinted in the newsletter of the Ottawa Unitarian Church, resulting in an interest in that city. Now the Open Door Society has been formed, including several families and promises to spread across the nation."

The Reverend Magnus Ratter leaves South Africa for England later in the year. The reason—"twenty little fingers, twenty little toes." A recent Cape Town Calendar asked "Why is Magnus Ratter's car like a millionaire's baby? Because every time it is taken out it gets a new rattle."

HOME CHURCHES

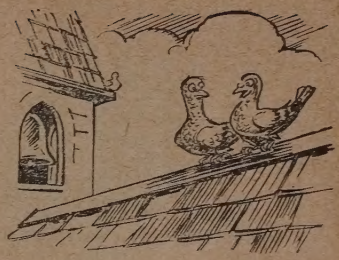
During this year's EDINBURGH Festival there will be three special Sunday morning services at the Unitarian Church, each preceded by an organ recital and followed by a Coffee Hour in the Hall. There will be an art exhibition of work by members and friends.

Stocks of U.Y.P.L. badges are running low. The possibility of a new badge, differently designed is being considered. Suggestions for a new design should be sent to the General Secretary, Martin Davies at Unitarian College, Manchester 14, before November 14th.

A branch of U.Y.P.L. has been formed at Cross Street Chapel, MANCHESTER.

The "Dover Express" recently reported that members of the CHATHAM Unitarian Church were entertained to tea by members of the Adrian Street Unitarian Church, followed by a joint service in the church. The preacher was Mr. David Embry, of Canterbury.

Efforts to re-establish the Unitarian cause at READING are beginning to show results. A series of fortnightly mid-week meetings with the theme "My Faith: What It Means To Me" was launched in January and support received was such that the lectures continued to the end of June. Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Orthodox Christian, Muslim, Parsee, Sikh representatives spoke at the respective meetings and the Rev. Arthur Peacock presided at each and also gave a lecture on the Unitarian attitude to the great religions. Another interesting evening was a film show when the film "Murder Neglect." dealing with Danilo Dolci's work in Sicily was shown. There were visitors at each of the meetings and a number



"Are these cats grinning to see us back?"

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by **S. P. WHITEHOUSE, M.A., B.Litt.**

Essex Hall Lecture, 1960

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attended regularly throughout. It has been a pleasure, too, to welcome more of these new friends to the church services. It is planned to run a further series of fortnightly meetings in autumn. The London District Provincial Assembly is particularly encouraged that its individual subscribers and churches have raised £764 in the past year to permit roof repairs to be carried out at Reading and new electrical lighting and heating apparatus to be installed.

Manchester College, OXFORD, was the meeting place, during the week-end of July 15th—18th of the World Congress of Faiths. There were some seventy delegates, under the presidency of the Baroness of Ravensdale, and the genial chairmanship of the Rev R. W. Sorenson, M.P. The various meetings were addressed by a Muslim, a Hindu and a Buddhist. Dr. T. A. Burkhill spoke on "Philosophical Aspects of Worship," and the final meeting heard a masterly summary, by Principal L. A. Garrard, of the various points of view which had been put forward by the different speakers. The Sunday service in the College Chapel, which was attended by well over one hundred people, was conducted by the Rev. John Rowland, and the sermon was preached by the Rev. Bernard Hooker, Minister of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue in Birmingham.

A Week-end School with the theme "Introducing the General Assembly to Youth" is to be held at ESSEX HALL over the last week-end in September. Thirty young people aged from eighteen to thirty will be able to attend for a cost of £1, which includes bed and breakfast for two nights.

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